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IN THE CLAIMS:

1. (Currently Amended) A method of recording video image images comprising the steps of:

successively receiving a plurality of video image images from a surveillance camera system;

recording a first one of said video images received at a first time and a second one of said video images received at a second time later than the first time; and~~said video image; and~~

thinning each of said recorded video image in accordance with passage of time of each of said recorded video image to output said thinned video image and said recorded video image images to form thinned video images, and outputting such thinned video images, wherein

a thinning rate for the first one of said video images is higher than a thinning rate for the second one of said video images.

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2. (Currently Amended) A The method as claimed in claim 1, wherein ~~said step of thinning comprising the step of~~comprises:

thinning frames of each ~~said~~ recorded video image for each ~~recording unit~~ a predetermined number of frames, wherein

further thinning said step of thinning thinned frames is further thinned at a later recording unit while a later predetermined number of frames is being recorded.

3. (Currently Amended) A The method as claimed in claim 1, wherein ~~said step of recording comprising the step of~~comprises:

recurrently distributing and recording ~~said video image of each recording unit of said video image to each of~~ images to a plurality of recording areas; and

each said recording unit, said said thinning comprises thinning a video image recorded in one of a plurality of said recording areas being thinned while when said one of a plurality of said recording areas is not used for recording said video image.

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4. (Currently Amended) A The method as claimed in claim 3, ~~further comprising step of~~ wherein recording comprises:

recording ~~said a~~ thinned video image with ~~time relation~~ with said video image and a timing relationship between the recorded thinned image and one of the recorded video images recorded while said when one of a plurality of said recording areas is used for recording ~~said a~~ thinned video image.

5. (Currently Amended) A The method as claimed in claim 1, further comprising: ~~the steps of:~~

composing ~~said one of~~ video image images and a thinned video image in each of said recording areas ~~in accordance with passage of time of said video image and thinned video image while said composed video image and said composed thinned image are being recorded.~~

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6. (Currently Amended) A The method as claimed in claim 1, further comprising: ~~the steps of:~~

generating time data; and

attaching ~~said~~ time data to each frame of ~~said~~ video image images to be recorded with ~~said~~ video imageimages.

7. (Currently Amended) A video image recording apparatus comprising:

a plurality of recording means for recording video imageimages;

switching means for switching said recording means ~~to~~ for recurrently ~~record~~ said recording a video image in each of said recording means ~~each recording unit;~~ every predetermined number of frames; and

thinning means for thinning ~~said~~ video ~~image~~ each of recorded video images in one of said recording means while ~~said~~ one of said recording means is not used for recording ~~said~~ a video image.

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8. (Currently Amended) A—The video image recording apparatus as claimed in claim 7, further comprising:

recording means for recording ~~said~~ a timing relationship between a thinned video image with time relation with said and a video image recorded while said one of a plurality of said recording means is used for recording ~~said~~ a video image.

9. (Currently Amended) A—The video image recording apparatus as claimed in claim 8, further comprising:

composing means for composing ~~said~~ a video image and thinned video image in each of recording areas in accordance with ~~passage of time of said~~ a timing relationship between a video image and a thinned video image, to output ~~said~~ a composed video image.

10. (Currently Amended) A—The video image recording apparatus as claimed in claim 9, further comprising:

reproducing means for reproducing said composed video image.

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11. (Currently Amended) A—The video image recording apparatus as claimed in claim 67, further comprising:

generating means for generating time data; and  
data attaching means for attaching ~~said~~ time data to each frame of ~~said~~ video imageimages.

12. (New) The method as claimed in claim 1, wherein recording video images comprises:

recording a present frame of one of video images when there is variation between the present frame and a previous frame of a video image preceding the present frame; and

not recording the present frame when there is no variation between the present frame and the previous frame.

13. (New) The method as claimed in claim 12, wherein thinning of each of recorded video images comprises:

thinning each of the recorded video images over time while the present frame is not being recorded.

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14. (New) The method as claimed in claim 13, further comprising:

stopping thinning each recorded video image when a minimum number of frames is left in the recorded video image.

15. (New) The video image recording apparatus as claimed in claim 7, wherein each of the recording means is for recording a present frame of one of video images when there is variation between the present frame and a previous frame of the video image preceding the present frame, and each of the recording means is for not recording the present frame when there is no variation between the present frame and the previous frame.